

T-617

James F. Burns House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1871

In 1871, Joshua M. Fairbank partitioned his Water Street lot by selling a 36' by 120' lot bordering the Methodist Protestant cemetery to James F. Burns for \$115. Fairbank had purchased the 79' by 120' lot four years earlier from James M. and Louisa F. Seth for \$500. It is reasonably assumed from the architectural features in the house that Burns financed construction of the two-story side hall/parlor house and rear kitchen shortly after 1871. The two-and-a-half story Victorian bay addityon was in place by the time the 1891 Sanborn Insurance map was printed.

The James F. Burns house is an interesting example of how a simple two-story side hall/parlor dwelling with a semi-detached kitchen was enlarged with a stylish Victorian bay addition. The initial house and kitchen were erected on a perpendicular axis, and the late Victorian addition filled neatly the northeast corner. Unifying the entire front is a single story Tuscan columned porch.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-617

Magi No. 2106172504

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JAMES F. BURNS HOUSE

and/or common 406 WATER STREET

2. Location

street & number 406 Water Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brown

street & number 406 Water Street telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 275

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 51

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No.

T-617

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The James F. Burns house, located at 406 Water Street, stands on the west side of the street and faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Initially erected around 1871, the two-story ell-shaped frame house appears to have been erected in two basic stages during the nineteenth century. The house has been enlarged during the twentieth century to the south and west. Architectural evidence suggests the front block was erected in two stages, beginning with the two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor frame structure and a semi-detached two-story rear kitchen wing. Around 1880-1890, it appears the two-and-a-half story Victorian addition with projecting bay was added to join the main house and kitchen. The house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and sheathed with artificial siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A slight dip in the ridge of the roof suggests the point of transition between the two front sections.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a center sidelighted entrance flanked by three-pane sidelights and a multi-pane transom. The five-sided bay to the north is pierced by single-pane and two-over-two sash windows, while the two bays to the south are filled with two-over two sash windows as well. Stretching across the full front of the house is a single story Tuscan columned porch. The same combination of single-pane and two-over-two sash windows light the second floor, and a two-over-two sash window pierces the gabled dormer of the pavilion. The cornice is boxed.

A single-story, hip roofed addition, attached during the 1970s, extended the house to the south. A pair of windows pierce the south wall, while the upper gable of the main house is blind. The eaves are slightly extended with short returns at the base. The north side is marked by an asymmetrical elevation of two-over-two sash windows.

The west (rear) elevation of the main house is partially covered by the nineteenth-century service wing and a modern single-story enclosed porch. The service wing is a short two-story gable roofed frame structure that is lighted by six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and small four-over-four sash windows on the second. A shed roofed pantry extends from the west gable end of the kitchen. Rising through the gable end of the Victorian addition is a stuccoed brick stack. The rear wall of the main house is marked by six-over-six sash windows on the first and second floors.

The interior has been remodeled slightly, but many nineteenth-century features remain intact. The stair rises within the center hall. A turned newel post and turned balusters support a oval profile handrail. The stringer is trimmed with a scroll decoration. The south room, now used as an office, is finished with a plain mid nineteenth-century mantel. The north room with the bay window is fitted with a more elaborate late nineteenth century mantel that has decorated pilasters that support a decorated frieze and a molded shelf. Late nineteenth-century surrounds frame four-panel doors, and an ogee molded baseboard trims the perimeter of the room.

(continued)

JAMES F. BURNS HOUSE DESCRIPTION (continued)

The dining room is fitted with a service stair that is enclosed by a beaded board partition. An adjacent four-panel door opens into the kitchen.

The second floor bedrooms are finished in a similar manner with mid to late nineteenth-century features. There is a severe drop in the floor level between the Victorian front block and the rear service wing. This is especially evident where a door was cut through from the second floor bedroom of the service wing to the later addition. The south bedroom in the main house, originally two rooms, is now one room. Plain surrounds frame the doors and windows, and a beaded board partition is located in the southwest corner.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-617

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The James F. Burns house is an interesting example of how a simple two-story, side hall/parlor house with a semi-detached kitchen was enlarged with a stylish Victorian bay addition. The initial house and kitchen were built perpendicular to one another, and the two-story addition filled neatly the northeast corner. Unifying the entire front is a single story Tuscan columned porch. The interior retains many nineteenth-century features.

In 1871, Joshua M. Fairbank partitioned his Water Street lot by selling a 36' by 120' lot bordering the Methodist Protestant cemetery to James F. Burns for \$115.(77/466) Fairbank had purchased the 79' by 120' lot four years earlier from James M. and Louisa F. Seth for \$500.(73/435) It is reasonably assumed from the architectural features in the house that Burns financed construction of the two-story side hall/parlor house and rear kitchen shortly after 1871. The two-and-a-half story Victorian bay addition was in place by the time the 1891 Sanborn Insurance map was printed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-617

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 3/24/88

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone (301) 651-1094

city or town Westover

state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

YEAR: 1947 VOL: 275 PAGE: 51

FROM: Olivia B. Tomes, widow

TO : Ethel Rhoads Robins

NOTES: On the West side of Water Street, 53 feet on Water by 120 feet deep. Conveyed to Tomes (then Elizabeth Olivia Burns) as three parcels by James F. Burns 1922, 193/145 and a confirmatory deed from Josephine L. Fairbank 1925, 203/115.

YEAR: 1925 VOL: 203 PAGE: 115

FROM : Josephine L. Fairbank

TO : Elizabeth Olivia Burns PRICE: \$20

NOTES: A small strip 2 feet wide on the North end of the property running back 120 feet to the "school property". Part of a lot Josephine acquired before 1876. Deed states she had "peaceful, quiet, and notorious possession".

YEAR: 1922 VOL: 193 PAGE: 145

FROM: James F. Burns

PRICE: \$2000

TO : Elizabeth Olivia Burns

NOTES: "Adjoining the Methodist Protestant burying ground. Run with Water Street N 36 feet; then West 120 feet to heirs of John Thomas Keithley.

Conveyed to Burns by Joshua M. Fairbank 1871, 77/466

Also, a lot adjoining the above on the South, 15 feet on Water Street by 120 feet back to Primary School lot.

Conveyed to Burns by the Commissioners of St. Michaels 1911, 158/306.

Also, the 2 foot strip on North that Burns got from Joshua Fairbank about 1890 of which Burns has been in "actual, hostile, visible, notorious, exclusive and continuous possession since 1890". (The lot is now 53' x 120')

YEAR: 1871 VOL: 77 PAGE: 466

FROM: Joshua M. Fairbank

PRICE: \$115

TO : James F. Burns

NOTES: This deed is for the 36' x 120' lot and divides the original 79 feet. Conveyed to Fairbank by Seth 1867, 73/435.

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 74 PAGE: 92

FROM: Joshua M. Fairbank PRICE:

TO: Josephine L. Fairbank

NOTES In this deed Joshua turns over to his wife the house, lot, and all furniture in consideration of the fact that her money (\$500) had been used to buy the property from Seth.

Conveyed to Fairbank by Seth 1867, 73/435.

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 73 PAGE: 435

FROM: James M. Seth and Louisa F. Seth PRICE: \$500

TO: Joshua M. Fairbank

NOTES Begins at a cedar at the NE corner of the Methodist Protestant burying ground; runs West 120 feet to James Keithley's lot; then North 79 feet to a lot of James M. Seth; then East 120 feet to Water Street and South 79 feet to the beginning.

By selling this lot to Fairbank, Seth breaks up the original Braddock plan of 60-foot-front lots. The burying ground (wider than the present Town property) extended to the southern edge of original lot 48. By selling 79 feet, the land bought by Fairbank extended across lot 48 and about 19 feet into lot 49. From this time the title-chain includes that of T-617.

YEAR: 1849 VOL: 62 PAGE: 249

FROM: Robert L. Seth PRICE: \$300

TO: James M. Seth

NOTES Lots 48, 49, 50 adjoining a lot held by the M E Church. Conveyed to Robert Seth by Sarah Seth 1846, 60/103

YEAR: 1846 VOL: 60 PAGE: 103

FROM: Sarah Seth, widow PRICE: L&A + \$100

TO: Robert L. Seth

NOTES Lots 48, 49, 50.

How conveyed to James Seth not complete at this time.

Lot 48 was sold to Thomas Lambdin by James Braddock (1778, 21/92) and by Thomas Lambdin to Levin Mansfield (1799, 28/208). A transfer by Levin Mansfield was not found.

Lot 49 was sold to Daniel Lambdin by James Braddock (1778, 21/93). His will leaves his real estate to his two daughters, Sarah Seth and Anne Winchester.

The land was on the boundary between Janes Progress and The Beach - probably in Janes Progress.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

H. C. DODSON'S ADD.

DODSON AVE.

Dodson & Whites
Brick Yd.

Res.
J. S. Hambleton

S. Aldridge

H. H. George

Mr. Dwyer

Black & White
Canning Yd.

Steam Boat
Wharf

John Miller's
Ship Yd.

Lambden

DR. JOHN MILLERS ADDITION
AVE.

T-617

Col. M. H. H. H.
Col. School
N.P.

H. C. Dodson

Ship Yd.

Spis. Ch.

Mech. Ch.

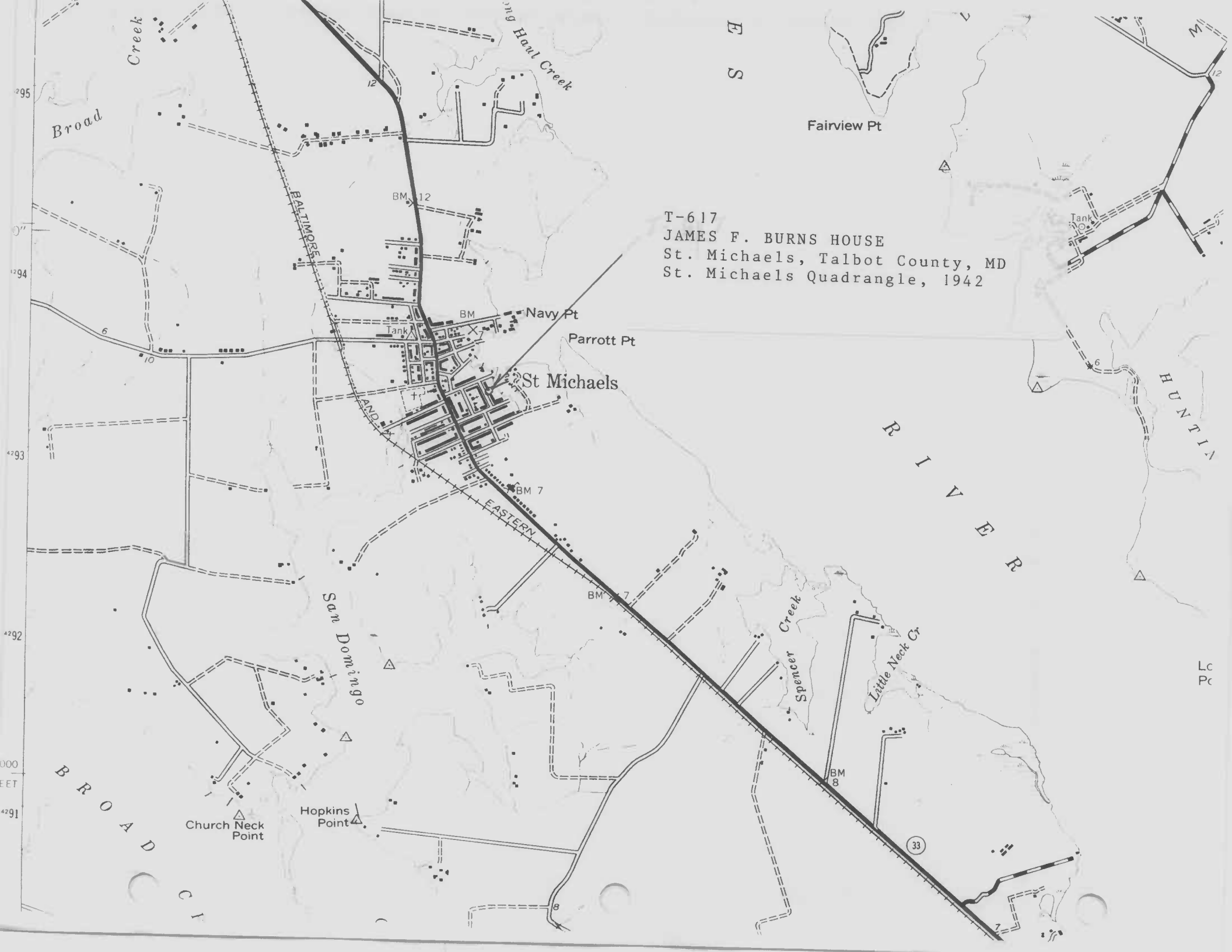
Gruff

CHEW

Dr. C. Gibson

ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES,
DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chem-
 icals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth
 brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles,
 Candles, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds.
 Also Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes,
 Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper,
 Pens, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil,
 Stoves, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions care-
 fully Compounded.
HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Con-
 veyancer.
W. W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate
 Agent and Conveyancer.
ES DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder,
 Shop at St. Michael's.
RED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Build-
 er. Shop at St. Michael's.
ES L. HARRISON, Real Estate Agent and Col-
 lector of Taxes.
SPARKS, Justice of the Peace and Collector.
SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First
 class work done on short notice. Repairing
 promptly and neatly done.
W. S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Ham-
 bleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheel-
 righting, and all work appertaining thereto. In-
 vincible Machinery carefully repaired. Farming
 implements on hand, and made to order at short
 notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting
 Specially.
WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.
JAMES SETE, Physician and Surgeon, Office
 and Residence near St. Michael's.
L. B. HARRISON, Blacksmith and
 Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly
 done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.
C. NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods,
 Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in
 Broad Creek Neck.
W. T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Wil-
 liams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table
 carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the sea-
 son. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges
 moderate.
NIEL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer
 in all kinds of Wagons.
GEORGE W. COLLINS, Tinner. Worker in Tin,
 Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin,
 and Sheet Iron ware of every description.
E. BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder.
 Persons having work in this line will do well to see
 him before contracting.
SEPH HERGENHEIMER, Ship Builder.
 Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.
IVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is
 skilful in his profession. Those wanting first class
 work done will do well to patronize him.
HARRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Mak-
 ers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly
 and neatly done.
J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh
 Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.
PT. C. R. LEONARD, Freighter of Grain of all
 kinds to any point.
JOHN BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods,
 Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.
W. H. HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries,
 Confectioneries &c.
S. KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Car-
 riages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly
 done.
A. DODSON Physician and Surgeon.





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JAMES F. BURNS HOUSE
St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD
St. Michaels Quadrangle, 1942



T-617

JAMES F. BURNS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

East elevation

1/88, Paul Touart photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



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JAMES F. BURNS HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Southwest elevation

1/88 Paul Touart photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust